

III. REMARKS

Claims 12-20 are pending in this application. By this amendment, claim 12 has been amended and claim 20 has been added. These amendments are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kraslavsky (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,350) in view of Runc (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,913), Chen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,622), hereafter "Chen," and Jorgensen (U.S. Patent No. 6,862,622), hereafter "Jorgensen." Applicant submits that that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is defective because the references, taken alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every feature of the claimed invention.

With reference to claim 1, the Examiner alleges that Kraslavsky discloses a "request sender for sending an IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet to IPX subnets connected within a specified number of hops." Kraslavsky, column 13, lines 1-27; column 14, lines 37-47. Regardless of the correctness of this allegation, Applicant submits that Kraslavsky fails to teach or suggest a "request sender for sending an IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packet over the Internet to IPX subnets connected within a specified number of hops." On the contrary, Kraslavsky is directed to a network interface device

which can communicate with other devices via a local area network (LAN) using various protocols and frame types, and which can be remotely reconfigured to use different protocols and frame types. Clearly, Kraslavsky is unconcerned with (and provides no disclosure directed to) the sending of IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packets over the Internet, nor the sending of IPX/SPX Routing Information Protocol (RIP) request packets over the Internet to IPX subnets connected within a specified number of hops (i.e., routers).

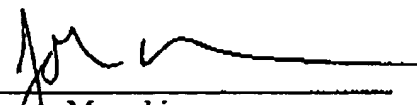
The Examiner asserts that Kraslavsky fails to teach that a "set of network numbers may be used to send an IPX/SPX packet to a subnet included within the set of network numbers." To overcome this glaring deficiency of Kraslavsky, the Examiner alleges that Rune teaches that a "set of network numbers may be used to send an IPX/SPX packet to a subnet included within the set of network numbers extensively." Rune, FIGS. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10; column 4, lines 37-43. This statement is technically incorrect and completely without merit. In particular, Rune refers exclusively to a TCP/IP network and is completely silent with regard to IPX/SPX. Therefore, Rune cannot possibly teach a "set of network numbers may be used to send an IPX/SPX packet to a subnet included within the set of network numbers extensively." As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the teachings of Kraslavsky and Rune in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Chen and Jorgensen fail to remedy the deficiencies of Kraslavsky and Rune. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the claims.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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